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to the passing of teams and other disturbing causes, while it has considerable effect on the interferometer, does not have an appreciable effect on the average period of oscillation of the pendulums. The movement of the case due to the oscillation of the pendulum, however, always has a negative effect on the period, that is, it causes the pendulum to beat a trifle slower than if the case were perfectly rigid.

There are 124 stations in the United States at which the force of gravity has been determined. About two-thirds of these have been occupied during the last three years. All determinations are made by the relative method, that is, the force of gravity at a station is obtained by measuring the periods of oscillation of the pendulums and comparing these with the known periods of the pendulums at the base station in Washington, D. C. The value of gravity at Washington was obtained in a similar manner several years ago by using Potsdam, Germany, as the base station where the force of gravity was known from absolute determinations covering many years.

A gravity party consists of two observers. A week or ten days is the usual time spent at a station, but in case of bad weather two weeks or even longer are sometimes necessary for the work. As all the observed values in the field depend upon the periods of the pendulums at the base station, the pendulums are brought back to Washington at least twice a year and tested to see that their periods have not changed or, if they have, to ascertain the amount of the change.

An interesting report on a new method of computing the effect of topography upon the intensity of gravity at a station has been prepared by the Coast and Geodetic Survey, and it will be available for distribution in the very near future.

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## THE CROCKER LAND EXPEDITION

About July 20 this year Mr. George Borup, Assistant Curator of Geology in the American Museum of Natural History, and Mr. Donald B. MacMillan expect to leave Sidney, Cape Breton, on a special steamer for the Smith Sound region to engage for two years in Arctic researches of great interest. The American Museum of Natural History and the American Geographical Society have approved the plans of these men and will give their support to the enterprise. Yale University and other institutions and individuals will also cooperate. The objects of the expedition are to reach and map Crocker Land, in the North Polar Sea, northwest of Grant Land, and to make all the scientific studies *en route* and in other parts of the Arctic regions that circumstances may permit.

The explorer Peary on June 30, 1906, stood on the summit of Cape Thomas Hubbard, the most northern point of Axel Heiberg Land, and what he saw he thus records in his book "Nearest the Pole":

"The clear day greatly favored my work in taking a round of angles and with the glasses I could make out, apparently a little more distinctly, the snow-clad summits of the distant land in the northwest above the ice horizon."

This appearance of land had been observed a few days before by Peary and his Eskimos from the northern shore of Grant Land and particularly from the top of Cape Colgate, 2,000 feet above sea level. Peary thought it was at about 100° W. Long. and 83° N. Lat., or about 130 miles from Cape Thomas Hubbard. Peary gave it the name of Crocker Land, in honor of the late Mr. George Crocker, of the Peary Arctic Club.

Dr. R. A. Harris, the well-known tidal expert, of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, based on a plot of all known tidal observations ("Arctic Tides, 1911") the deduction that a great area of land or an archipelago, or very shallow water, trapezoidal in outline and half a million square miles in superficies, exists north of western America and eastern Siberia, and stated his belief that the Crocker Land observed by Peary was part of its eastern edge.

In the Polar regions, however, great ice masses have sometimes been mistaken for land. It remains for the Crocker Land Expedition to show whether this land really exists. But there are questions of even greater importance than this to the solution of which the explorers will give much attention.

Dr. Nansen, in an article on "North Polar Problems" (1907), said: "The determination of the extent of the continental shelf to the north of Axel Heiberg Land and Ellesmere Land would be a great achievement. . . A satisfactory solution of this problem would be of more scientific value than even the attainment of the Pole. . . The extent and shape of the polar continental shelf, which means the real continental mass, is the great feature of north polar geography which is of much more importance, geographically or geomorphologically, than the possible occurrence of unknown islands on this shelf."

The expedition will take soundings to and from Crocker Land

and will endeavor to ascertain the position of the continental shelf in that region.

The leaders will take with them a competent physician, a cook, and probably one other man. Both Borup and MacMillan are very well known to the public through the work they did under Peary in his last Polar expedition; and they have the Admiral's unqualified endorsement of the work they are about to undertake.

The accompanying map* shows Bache Peninsula on whose southern shore (Flagler Bay) it is proposed to erect in August, 1912, the headquarters of the expedition. On the way north whale and walrus meat, and dogs will be collected. Here is a brief outline of the further movements of the party:

After sending the ship home the party, about the middle of September, will begin sledging supplies to Cape Thomas Hubbard, carrying the work on through the winter during the moonlight periods. Leaving Cape Thomas Hubbard with the return of dawn in February, 1913, they will push across the ice to Crocker Land. They will leave Crocker Land about May 1, and return to Cape Thomas Hubbard, whence they will send a messenger to North Star Bay with the news of the expedition, to be forwarded home by Danish steamer. They will then carry on scientific work in Grant Land and along the return route to winter quarters on Flagler Bay, arriving there in July, 1913. During the summer, supplies and collections will be transferred to Etah. In the spring and summer of 1914, an expedition will be made from Whale Sound (Inglefield Gulf) directly eastward to the summit of the ice-cap of Greenland, at the widest part of that island. The party will return to New York in the autumn of 1914 by special ship.

The scientific studies proposed are comprehensive. From Flagler Bay to Cape Thomas Hubbard (some 330 miles through Ellesmere, Axel Heiberg and Grant Lands), continuous geological, paleontological and physiographic work will be done and specimens collected. From Cape Thomas Hubbard to Crocker Land, in addition to the soundings already mentioned, tidal observation, temperature observation at various depths in the water and collections of marine animals will be made. On Crocker Land, two months will be spent, mapping topographically and geologically the coast line and interior, and collecting specimens of rocks and fossils and of living plants and animals. A thorough study of glaciers, glacial ice-caps and glacial motion will be made, for the purpose of solving the problem of the process of land molding under a continuous, moving ice-cap, a process which is not yet understood. The "glacial fringe" off the north coast of Grant Land offers a particularly interesting field for study. Attention will be paid to meteorology, ethnology, archæology, birds, mammals and fishes.

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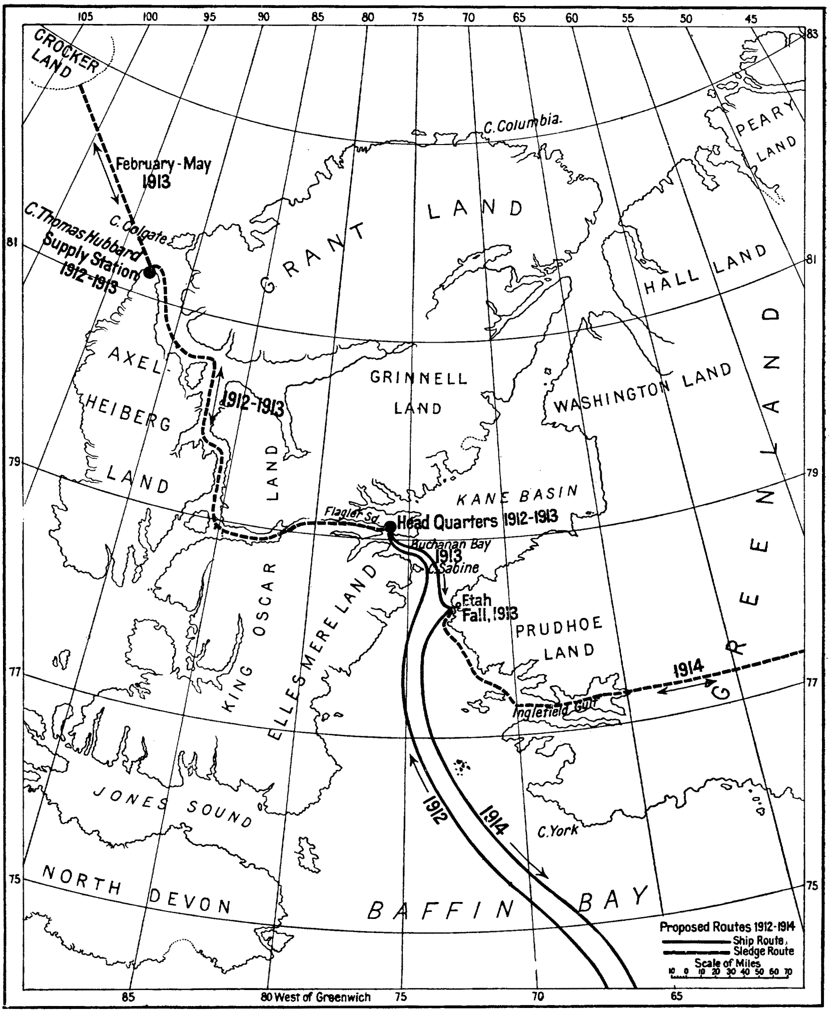

Map showing Proposed Route of the Crocker Land Expedition. Scale 1:8,500,000.

The following are some of the principal items of the outfit to be provided: three years' provisions for four or five white men, their helpers and their dogs, much of which, particularly the pemmican, has to be specially prepared and packed; clothing; instruments for all kinds of observations and records; photographic cameras, including those for moving pictures; a power boat for use in Flagler Bay and in crossing to Etah; salary of physician and wages of cook and helpers; a steamship to take the party to Flagler Bay in 1912 and another to go up for it in 1914.

It is estimated that not less than fifty thousand dollars* must be provided for the absolute needs of the expedition, in order to enable it to accomplish the valuable results that have been outlined above, and this in spite of the fact that Messrs. Borup and MacMillan generously serve the expedition without salary during the period of its absence from New York.

In addition to the appropriations made by the Museum and the Geographical Society, subscriptions have already been made or promised by Yale University, Bowdoin College, the New York Academy of Sciences, Worcester Academy and Groton School, and by the following individuals: General Thomas H. Hubbard, Admiral R. E. Peary, Mrs. C. B. Alexander, Zenas Crane, John E. Thayer, Theodore Roosevelt, Mrs. G. B. French, Harry E. Converse, Andrew G. Weeks, Richard S. Dow, Herbert Austen, Robert P. Simpson, John Larkin, E. W. Clark, L. H. Greenwood, J. Sanford Barnes, Jr., Paul B. Morgan, Samuel Rea, W. W. Atterbury and Lewis A. Platt.

The honorary committee on the Crocker Land expedition consists of Henry Fairfield Osborn, president of the American Museum of Natural History; Chandler Robbins, chairman of the Council of the American Geographical Society, and Thomas H. Hubbard, president of the Peary Arctic Club. The committee in charge comprises, E. O. Hovey, American Museum of Natural History, and H. L. Bridgman, Peary Arctic Club.

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* There remain to be raised about $30,000, and the Museum has opened an account, known as the "Crocker Land Expedition Fund," for the purpose of receiving and caring for all subscriptions made to the expedition. Checks to further its purpose should be drawn payable to the American Museum of Natural History and forwarded to E. O. Hovey of the Crocker Land Expedition Committee, to whom, furthermore, all correspondence relating to the expedition should be addressed.